



Department Updates

Health & Human Services

Stacey Frolik, Director

The kNOw Meth campaign continues in Barron County. This is a cooperative effort between the Sheriff's Department, the Judicial System (specifically Drug Court) and the Department of Health and Human Services. To date we have held three town hall meetings that have been very successful. The first one in Rice Lake had about 200 attendees, Barron had about 50 attendees and Turtle Lake also had about 50 attendees. The purpose of the town hall meetings is to educate the public about the large and ever growing Meth problem we have in Barron County and to encourage the community to become involved in helping fight the problem. A kNOw Meth facebook page has been created. Sarah Turner, Karla Broten, Sheriff Fitzgerald and myself attended a meeting sponsored by the Northwoods Coalition about efforts occurring in surrounding counties and we planned upcoming meetings to create a unified front against Meth. One of the topics we will continue to pursue with this group is awareness and funding at the State level. Representative Romaine Quinn did also participate in that meeting.

Tonier Cane presented at the BACC on April 25th. She focused her message on her own

life story and how she has survived a horrific life of both childhood and adulthood trauma. She talked about her struggles and what it finally took to get her started on a positive path of living. There were about 400 people in attendance, we filled the BACC auditorium.

As a part of the Brighter Futures Initiative we just completed a round of Trauma Informed Parenting (TIP) training. About 25 people were trained. Another session will kick-off in August. The dates and times are:

August 2nd (5:30-8:00pm)
August 9th (5:30-8:00pm)
August 16th (5:30-8:00pm)
August 23rd (5:30-8:00pm)
August 30th (5:30-8:00pm)
September 6th (5:30-8:00pm)
September 13th (5:30-8:00pm)
September 20th (5:30-8:00pm)

The training will take place in the Government Center Auditorium. This class is open to everyone. We will be offering at least one more round of this training in the late fall/winter. Please RSVP to Ashley Mertins at 715-537-6166 if you would like to attend or for more information.

Public Health Accreditation continues. The plan to officially submit materials in May of 2016 has been extended due

primarily to staff turn-over. The strategic planning process continues with the goal of submitting all accreditation materials by the end of 2016.

The DHHS committee has lost two long-term board members due to them not running for County Board. Donna Cordes and John Hardin have been replaced by Oscar Skoug and Eric Pannier. I would like to thank Donna and John for their many years of commitment to the County and specifically DHHS. Their wisdom and knowledge over the years has really been appreciated. I would also like to welcome Oscar and Eric as they take on this new responsibility and become familiar with the county and DHHS.

County Board Meetings

- **June 20th - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **July 18th - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **August 15th - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **September 19th - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **October 17th - 7:00 p.m.**
 - **November 7th - 6:00 p.m.**
 - **November 15th - 9:00 a.m.**
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Treasurer

Vonnie Ritchie, Treasurer

Taxes

July tax collection is right around the corner so we are updating mailing addresses. We will be sending out reminder postcards and delinquent letters the last week in June, for all unpaid taxes. By sending these notices, taxpayers are reminded of the July 31st due date, amounts due, our office hours, and their payment options. This notice allows us to process payments more efficiently because the parcel information is included with the payments.

The unpaid 2015 postponed taxes totaled \$13,257,706 and delinquent 2015 taxes totaled \$952,035.66 as of May 31, 2016. These amounts do not include the City of Rice Lake taxes as they have a three payment plan and

the City collects all three installments. Prior years (2004-2014) delinquent taxes balance totaled \$829,323.76 for all municipalities as of May 31, 2016. These totals do not include interest, penalty, or tax deed fees.

Tax Foreclosure Process

The In-Rem tax foreclosure process began in November, 2015, on the delinquent 2012 taxes that were due in 2013. The list and notices are posted on the Barron County website and were published in all Barron County newspapers on April 13th, April 20th, and April 27th. The last day to pay the delinquent 2012 taxes is June 17, 2016. Any parcels with delinquent 2012 and prior year taxes that are not paid by June 17, 2016, will be transferred to the County and

possibly sold at public auction. The owners have the option to repurchase these parcels from the county within 30 days by paying all taxes due plus interest, penalty, and tax deed fees.

Camping Reservations

Reservations for the Barron County Parks must be made online through the Barron County Website or at parks.co.barron.wi.us. Information about the parks, camp sites, park rules, maps and reservations are also on this website. Total camping fees collected for this season through May is listed below by Campground:

Grant Park Shelter	\$350.00
Southworth Memorial Park	\$4,704.00
Veterans Memorial Park	\$8,757.00
Waldo Carlson Park	\$15,892.50
Total Collections	\$39,703.50

Finance

Jodi Busch, Finance Director

We are winding up the audit season in the Barron County Finance Department. CliftonLarsonAllen was onsite from April 25th through May 25th to audit the Financials for 2015. During this period, they also spent time at the Justice Center and Incinerator. Areas of focus included auditing various accounts in all Barron County Funds, Grant Testing, Fixed Assets, Payroll, and Investments. New this year was an audit of IT Internal Controls and security practices. In addition to the various audit processes conducted while onsite, CLA also provided in-

formation and instruction as to new accounting rules coming down the pike. They continue to be a great resource to the Finance Department and we look forward to their visit when we get this chance to work with them.

Even though their visit is now completed, the audit continues with CLA putting together our Financial Statements and preparing reports to be filed with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and Federal Government. Once completed, drafts of the Financial Statements will be sent to Barron County for our review. Once our

review is completed, reports will be filed and the final Financial Statements will be printed. The final deadline for completion is July 31st.

As we finalize the audit, our focus is now switching to the 2017 Budget. Wage Projections are being calculated and will be distributed to the departments with the budget worksheets the first week of July. Then it is full speed ahead to build a balanced budget over the summer, with final County Board approval in early November.

Office on Aging / Aging & Disability Resource Center

Leslie Fijalkiewicz, Director

Aging & Disability Resource Center

There are an estimated 1,165 people currently living with dementia in Barron County and that number will double in less than 10 years.

Music is profoundly linked with personal memories and even for people living with advanced dementia music can tap deep emotional recall. Beloved music often calms chaotic brain activity and enables the listener to focus on the present moment, regain a connection to others, thereby improving overall quality of life.

The Aging & Disability Resource Center has been awarded a \$25,000 Mayo Hometown Health grant to implement a program called Music & Memory. The grant involves partnering with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Barron County, to involve youth in connecting persons with dementia to the music of their past.

Before visiting the elder, the youth will receive education on aging, dementia, and the brain. Equally important, they will go through experiential learning exercises so they can “walk a mile in

the shoes” of the elders they are helping. The youth will then visit the elder with dementia to discover the music that “speaks” to the elder. The youth will then load the music on an Ipod shuffle and assist the elder and family on how to use the device.

In the coming months, four staff members of the ADRC are being honored for the work they have done. **Chris Hagen & Darby Simpson** are being recognized by the Wisconsin Institute for Health Aging with the Making It Happen Award, for the work they did in creating sustainable Memory Cafes in our three county region. **Jennifer Jako** is being recognized by the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources with the Elder Ace Innovation Award, for developing the Barron County Employee Salad Bar as a fundraiser for the Meals on Wheels Program.

Trisha Bailkey’s work as the dementia specialist has garnered the attention of the state. Her work has made Barron County one of the stops in the Governor’s Cabinet on the Road initiative. They want to learn more about how our county departments have been trained as dementia friendly, and they want to

hear about our intergenerational approach to the Music & Memory Project.

As the Director of the ADRC, I am proud of all our agency staff. Chris, Darby, Jennifer and Trisha all have one thing in common...they attribute their success to the support they receive from their coworkers, our community partners and Barron County government. Without minimizing their personal achievements, I would echo that sentiment and say that these awards are truly a reflection of Barron County’s commitment to its residents.

To watch a video which demonstrates the profound effect of music, please visit [https://musicandmemory.org/?gclid=CMvPs8bbpc0CFQ8vaQodhhgAY](https://musicandmemory.org/?gclid=CMvPs8bbpc0CFQ8vaQodhhgAY&gclid=CMvPs8bbpc0CFQ8vaQodhhgAY) or

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt2593392/>